

Net zero for Manufacturing head office

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Net zero for Head Office

Who this is for

You work at group-level for an FMCG manufacturer, as a Group Energy Manager, Sustainability Manager or at Director level. Your company will need to achieve net zero carbon targets and you need to turn those aspirations into action.

Not your role?

Please follow the links below for information for other roles in the manufacturing industry:

[Net zero for Manufacturing sites](#)

Why read this

We have been working with manufacturers to achieve their sustainability goals for 30 years. We take a collaborative approach, working first to establish relationships and understand your site so that we can be a useful part of your team. We are proud to have long-term relationships with the majority of our manufacturing clients (we have been working with some for over 10 years).

This document has been created from our experience in helping manufacturers to set and work towards net zero targets, in collaboration with other Manufacturing Sustainability Managers.

Net zero for Head Office

Your net zero journey

Where do you want to be?

Taking the net zero journey will require your business to answer 3 key questions. To fully achieve net zero goals, these questions will need to be answered at every level of the organisation, not just the top.

For each area, we have listed some considerations for your role as a Group Sustainability Manager along with some examples of what can be done.

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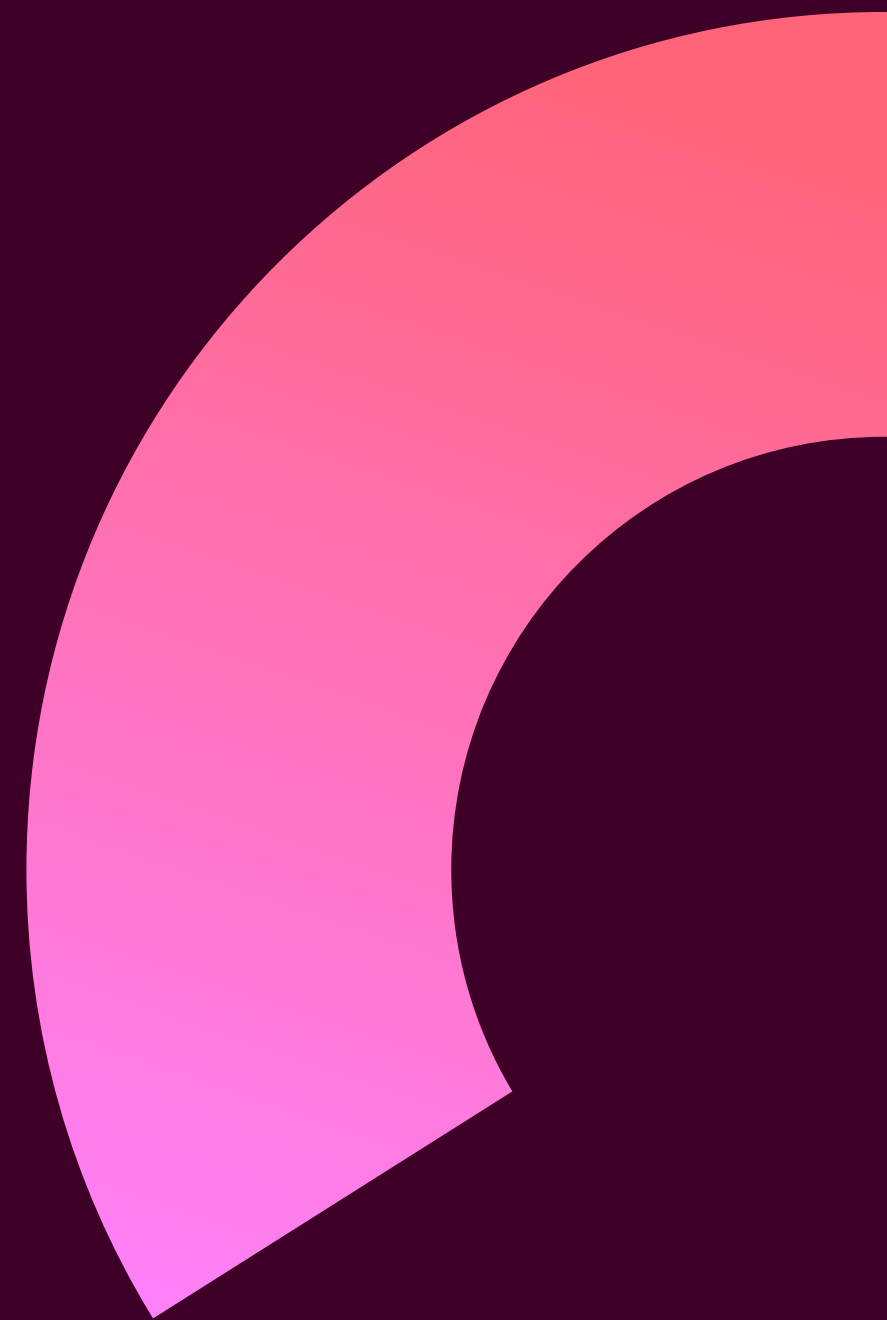


How will you track and measure?

How will you achieve targets?

Aim for zero

Where do you want to be?



Operationalise group targets

Net zero targets at a corporate level can sometimes risk feeling intangible. It is important to operationalise a group level target by developing a set of relevant, challenging, yet achievable sub targets.

Engagement and ownership

When setting long-term targets it is critical to ensure that there is clear ownership of both the group and sub targets to ensure focus is maintained. The most impactful net zero strategies are those that successfully align the achievement of net zero with core business. This will need to involve many stakeholders including operations, finance, procurement and strategy (does everyone have the skills, knowledge and resources to achieve net zero?). This can take time, so start engagement early.

Develop a data strategy

It is important that you have a way of accurately tracking progress and forecasting future trajectory. The challenges of gathering and processing the necessary data for Scope 1,2 and 3 reporting requires careful consideration. It would be prudent to develop a data and systems strategy that underpins any net zero ambition (see Report for zero).

Demonstrate risks and benefits

Internal alignment is one of the big early challenges. Colleagues are likely to buy into the idea earlier if you can articulate the opportunity associated with a net zero business, compared to the risk of inaction.

Aim for zero

Benefits for your business

- Identify where you can generate value within your organisation and therefore respond to investor concerns.
- Well formed strategies will improve your resilience to a carbon constrained future and make a material contribution to tackling climate change.
- A pro-active approach gives you the best chance of an orderly transition. Take early advantage of any opportunities created by a zero carbon economy.
- A clear plan helps everyone work together towards a common aim.

Case study

Verco developed and delivered a technically and financially viable zero carbon dairy strategy to meet Arla's ambitious goals.

[Read full case study](#)

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Aim for zero

Services for you

Aim for Zero service

This service provides everything you need for confidence in a robust and achievable net zero plan. We tailor this to the individual needs of the client but it could include:

- Costed pathways to achieve zero carbon complete with milestone targets and the structure for achieving them.
- Opportunity and risk analysis.
- Value chain emissions baseline.
- Zero carbon scenario analysis- exploring the different routes you could take to inform the right strategy.
- Identifying future 'tipping points' when certain strategic decisions need to be made (such as cost of carbon or gas Vs electricity price).
- Science Based target setting including FLAG where relevant.

Deliver for zero

How will you achieve targets?

Review approach

There may be a number of different approaches to achieve net zero for a company, but each will vary in terms of timescales, capital required, changes in operational costs and risk.

Co-ordination

The group function needs to co-ordinate and oversee a number of implementation plans across the business which will contribute to the net zero objective. Beyond the specific business unit plans it is likely that there will be a number of central activities such as green energy procurement or developing a suitable offset strategy.

Consider the future

Consider a central platform where all the targets, plan and most importantly, progress achieved can be monitored.

Deliver for zero

Benefits for your business

- Achieve your net zero targets within the timeframe that you have set.
- An approach focussing on internal action will mitigate against the risk of a change in opinion on the use of green tariffs and offsets in net zero strategies.

Case study

CCL Secure UK won the Energy Institute Energy Management Award 2022 for their impressive achievements: A 20.5% reduction in their carbon footprint per tonne of product (Scope 1,2 and 3), against the 2018 baseline year, without the need for offsets or market instruments. This was done through:

- A comprehensive materiality assessment
- Investment in the right technology to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Efficiency improvements
- Process innovations
- Scope 3 smart supply chain.

Verco continues to support their ongoing zero carbon journey.



[Read full case study](#)

Deliver for zero

Services for you

Green energy and offset procurement

We develop strategies for both the procurement of green energy and high quality offsets.

Deliver for zero

There may be a number of different approaches to achieve net zero for a company, but each will vary in terms of timescales, capital required, changes in operational costs and risk. We develop and deliver optimal implementation plans for manufacturers, for scopes 1,2 and 3. This may include supporting the implementation of projects you complete in-house or supporting the procurement of an EPC or Energy as a Service provider.

Report for zero

How will you track and measure?



GHG performance

It is likely that GHG performance will need to be reported in a number of different ways, from mandatory disclosures, voluntary reporting schemes such as CDP and interested internal and external stakeholders sometimes on a quarterly basis.

What do you need to report on?

Pretty soon after getting commitment to net zero it is important to define what you want to include within a target. Are you looking to achieve a verified SBT or similar? If so, this can dictate the reporting approach you would need to take. Understanding this early on can avoid wasted effort.

Scope 3

When dealing with scope 3, understand where data availability is likely to improve over time (such as supplier specific data) and factor that into the design of your system.

Report for zero

Benefits for your business

- Accurate reporting will demonstrate your site's contribution to net zero goals.
- Careful consideration of the methodology will ensure savings are realised when action is taken.
- Accurately forecasting impacts on an ongoing basis will support long-term strategic decision making.

Case study

Verco developed a custom Scope 3 reporting methodology for Asahi Europe and International that supports them in achieving their ambitious sustainability targets.

[Read full case study](#)

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Report for zero

Services for you

Software for zero

A full range of scope 1,2 and 3 reporting and forecasting services.

Climate disclosure

We provide a guaranteed compliance offer to meet all EU and UK energy and carbon regulation (both voluntary schemes and standard compliance). Including TCFD and transition plans (CDP).

Complex environmental reporting

Using our outstanding knowledge of environmental reporting, we deliver complex analytical commissions for clear decision making. We consider the whole value chain impacts of an organisation's products as well as life-cycle assessments of specific products and services. You can then have confidence that your environmental strategy addresses the critical sources of impact.

Encourage engagement

Engagement is essential to keep projects running well, overcome the challenges quickly and celebrate success in style. Here are some ideas that we have seen work with our manufacturing clients:

Support colleagues

Before you start working on net zero projects, make sure you are all talking the same language- does everyone understand what a science based target is? Do they know what initiatives your business is involved with and what they are? Take a look at our 'Verco explains' series of bite-sized webinars and videos which explain net zero terminology and initiatives:

[Go to Verco explains](#)

Establish roles and responsibilities

Stakeholders throughout the business need to understand their role in the process and the roles of their colleagues too. Share this document with colleagues:

[Net zero for manufacturing sites](#)

Continuous improvement

Taking a continuous improvement approach to energy will make cost reduction part of the routine. Click here for our engagement toolkit which includes continuous improvement tips:

[Engagement toolkit](#)

What next:

Visit our website

Find out more about us and the services we provide.

Visit our website

Join our mailing list

We will keep updated on the latest compliance requirements, opportunities for funding and upcoming webinars and events that are relevant to you.

Join our mailing list

Call us for a free 30 minute phone consultation

We are here to help you achieve zero and love talking to businesses about how they can meet their net zero targets. Arrange a call with one of our engineers to discuss your needs and the options available to you.

Book a consultation